

First World War Service of John Theodore Morrell



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Introduction

This book stands as a memorial to John Theodore Morrell, a young farmer from Schuyler County, Illinois, who served his country in Europe during the First World War and returned to start a family and live a long life. He was fortunate; too many were not.

John did not participate in any infamous battles nor was he physically wounded; in fact he never saw combat. This does not mean his experience of war is less important to history than anyone else who served. Every veteran's story is a part of the whole.

John died two months before my third birthday and, unfortunately, I don't remember him. I know of him through family stories and photographs. He and his wife, Millie, were long known as "Grandpa and Grandma Swinger" in our family because they loved to sit on their porch swing in Sciota, Illinois. While he was alive, five generations of the family lived in that small village.

John and Millie left a prodigious family legacy of well over a hundred descendants. It is my hope that this book will help those descendants far into the future to know a bit about their progenitor who left the family farm, went to war, and came back to give us all life.

— C. D. C

First World War Victory Medal
service ribbon.





Portrait of John Theodore Morrell in uniform, sometime after his marriage on 23 Oct 1919 (note wedding band on left hand).

Timeline of Service

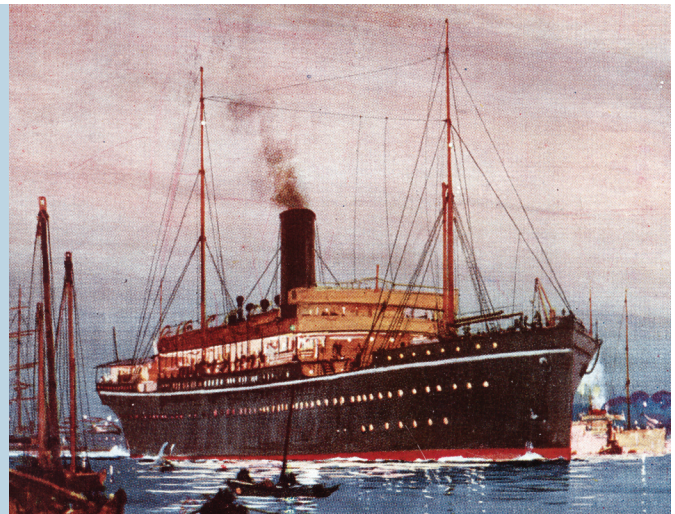
- 1894 Jul 19 John Theodore Morrell is born in Camden Township, Schuyler County, Illinois, the second son of Cyrus Alphonso Morrell and Nora Jane (Marshall) Morrell.¹
- 1917 Apr 6 The United States declares war on Germany.
- 1917 Jun 5 John, a farm laborer working for his uncle, Allie Morrell, is among the more than 1,000 young men of Schuyler County who register for the draft on the first national registration day; he will be placed in Class I (eligible and liable for military service).²
- 1918 May After almost a year of agricultural deferment, John and his uncle, Grover Cleveland Morrell, are called up in the draft.³
- “Many of the young men called at this time were actively engaged in farming, but the necessity for recruits is so great that it was necessary to take them to fill the quota.”⁴*
- 1918 May 26 Members of the Rebekah and I.O.O.F. lodges hold a supper and entertainment for Schuyler County recruits who will be departing for service the next morning.⁵
- 1918 May 27 John departs Rushville by rail for Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, as part of the largest group of draftees (61) sent from Schuyler County at one time.⁶
- 1918 May 28 John is inducted into the United States Army.⁷
- 1918 Jun 8 John’s grandfather and namesake, Theodore Morrell, dies age 84.⁸

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- 1918 Jun 17 While at Camp Shelby, John is assigned to the 38th Division, 76th Infantry Brigade, 151st Infantry Regiment, Company F, as a private, serial no. 1571430.⁹
- 1918 Jul 19 John turns twenty-four at Camp Shelby.
- 1918 Sep 30 John's company completes training at Camp Shelby and travels by rail to Camp Mills, New York, in preparation for deployment to Europe.¹⁰
- 1918 Oct 5 John's company moves from Camp Mills to Montreal, Canada.¹¹
- 1918 Oct 12 John's company boards the British ship *Nagoya* in Quebec.¹²
- 1918 Oct 14 *Nagoya* sails from Quebec bound for England.¹³
- 1918 Oct 26 *Nagoya* arrives in Gravesend, England.¹⁴

The British passenger/cargo liner *Nagoya*, launched in 1913, was owned and operated by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) for Far East service. Like thousands of other merchant ships, it was requisitioned for wartime use and became a troop transport ship. Nearly half of the American soldiers sent to France traveled on British ships.¹⁵

Detail from a peacetime postcard of *Nagoya* in port at Yokohama, Japan.



- 1918 Oct 29 John's company passes through Winnall Down transit camp near Winchester, England, before sailing from Southampton to cross the English Channel.¹⁶
- 1918 Oct 30 John's company arrives in Le Havre, France.¹⁷
- 1918 Nov 5 With John's company now skeletonized, he is transferred to the 83rd Division, 2nd Depot, Le Mans, France, where troops receive further training and reassignment before being forwarded to the front.¹⁸



Soldiers in the kitchen and mess line at Le Mans forwarding camp, 3 Mar 1919.

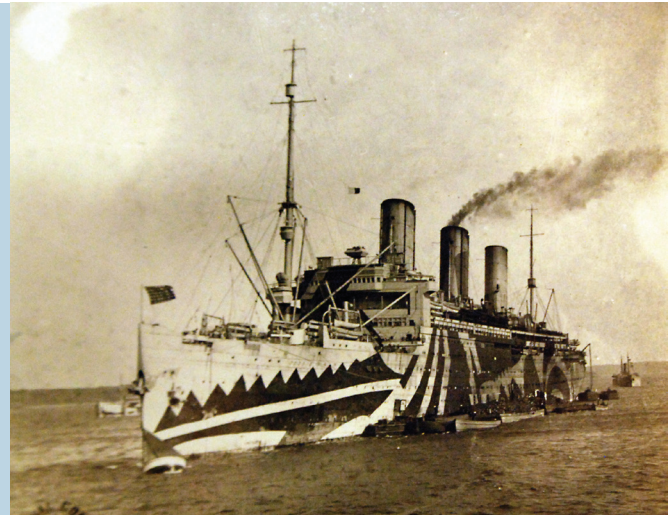
- 1918 Nov 11 Armistice goes into effect at 11:00 AM ending fighting on the Western Front where nearly two million American soldiers are serving.
- 1918 Dec 1 Allied troops—including a quarter million Americans—begin to enter Germany commencing the occupation of the Rhineland that will last until 1923.¹⁹
- 1919 Feb John is mustered with the 4th Division, 7th Infantry Brigade, 39th Infantry Regiment, Company D, in Germany.²⁰
- 1919 Apr 4 Company D is at Remagen, Germany.²¹
- 1919 Apr 10 Company D is at Rolandseck, Germany.²²
- 1919 May 23 Company D is at Bitburg, Germany.²³
- 1919 Jun 28 Treaty of Versailles ends the war and sets in motion the demobilization of most American troops.

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- 1919 Jul 9 John's division moves to Brest, France.²⁴
- 1919 Jul 19 John turns twenty-five in France.
- 1919 Jul 30 After nine months in Europe, John sails from Brest on the ship *Leviathan*, bound for the United States.²⁵
- 1919 Aug 6 *Leviathan* arrives at Hoboken, New Jersey.²⁶

The German passenger liner *Vaterland*, launched in 1913, was owned and operated by the Hamburg America Line until it was seized at port in Hoboken by the U.S. government on 6 Apr 1917. When launched, *Vaterland* was the largest passenger liner in the world. The U.S. renamed the vessel *Leviathan* and converted it into a transport ship capable of carrying up to 14,000 troops.²⁷

Leviathan sporting “dazzle” camouflage at Brest, France, 30 May 1918.

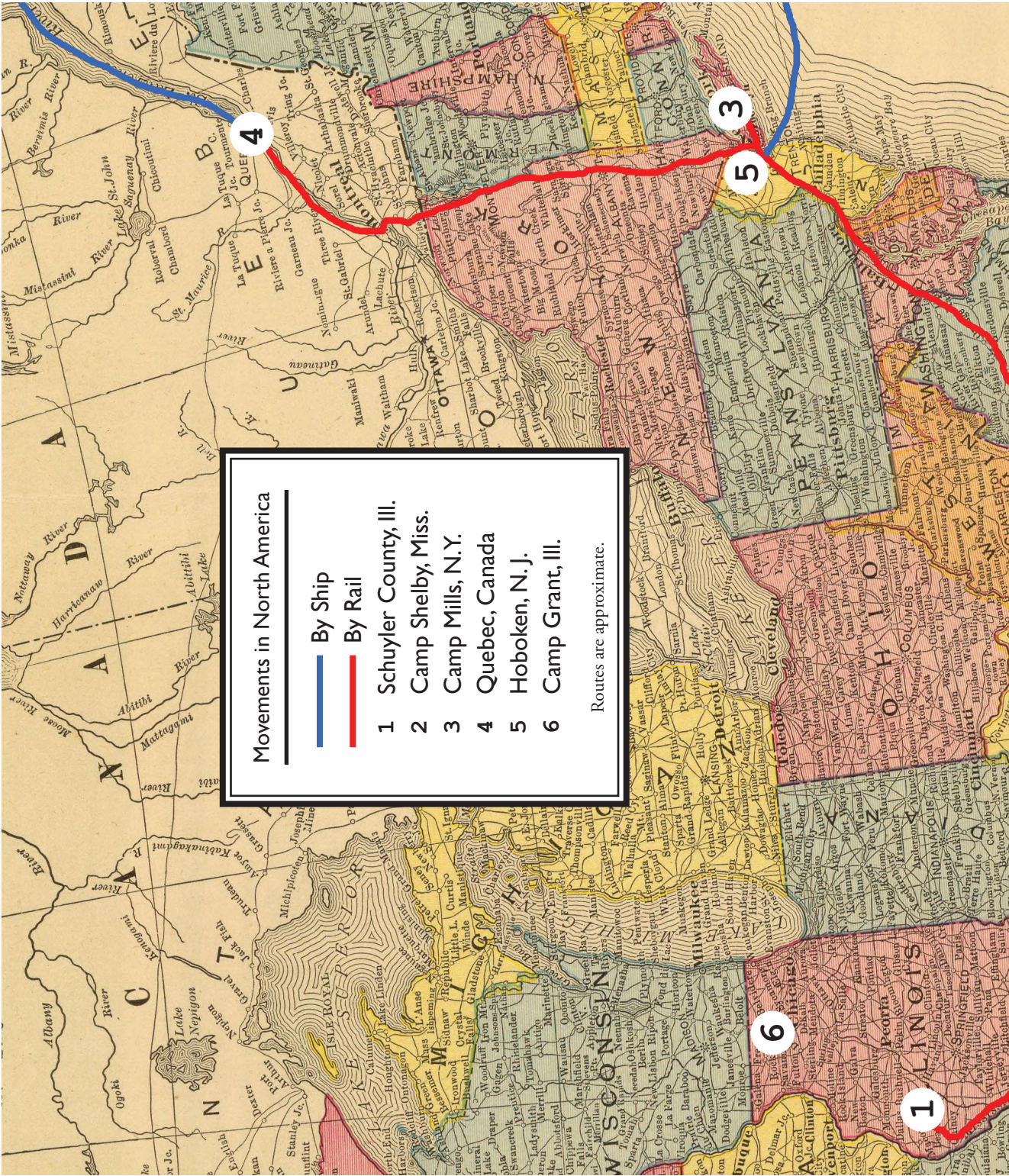


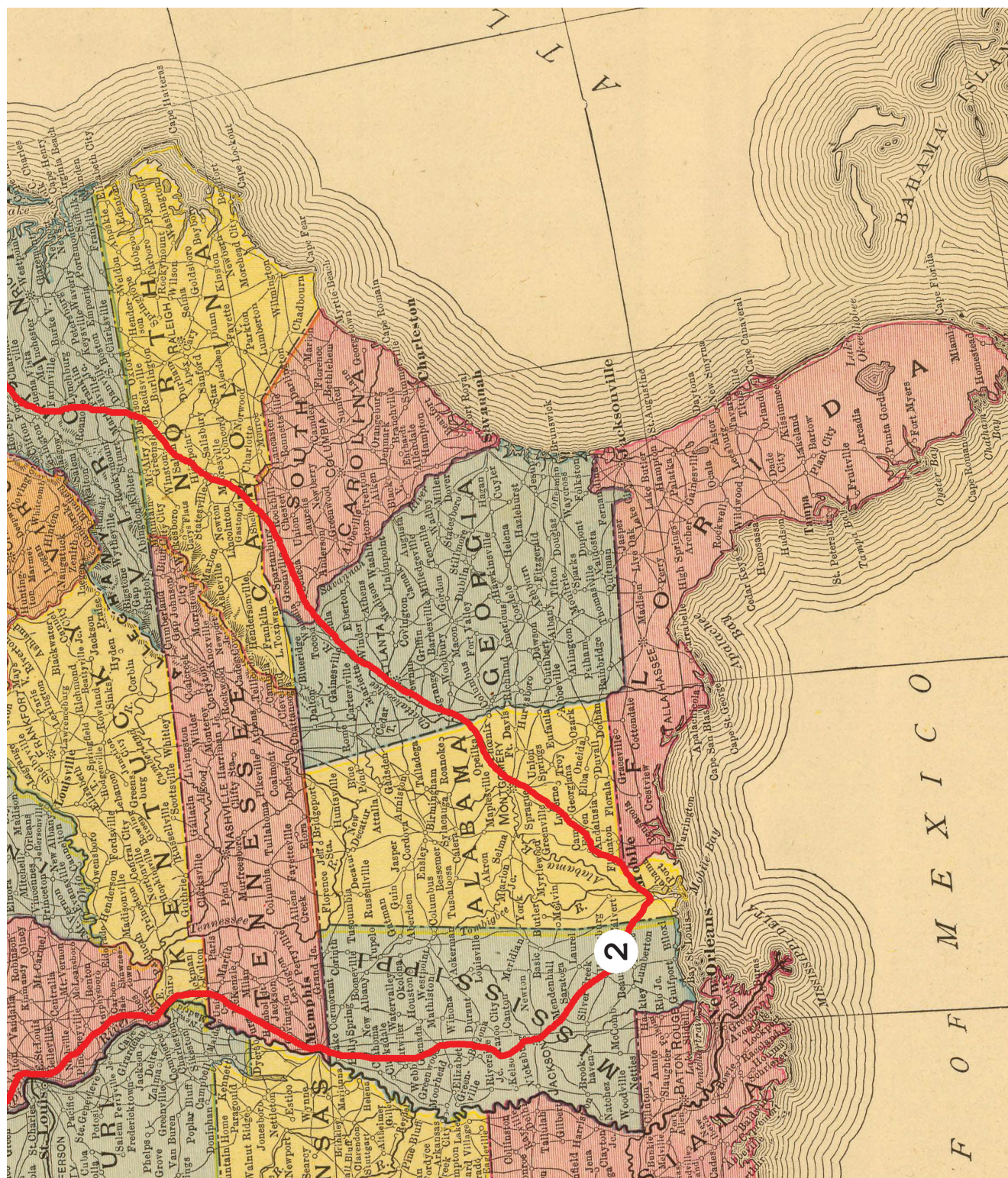
- 1919 Aug 10 John is transferred to Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois.²⁸
- 1919 Aug 13 John is honorably discharged from the Army at Camp Grant and receives his final pay totaling \$83.45 (equivalent to \$1,513 in 2024) which includes a \$60 bonus and \$9.85 pay to cover his rail ticket home to Rushville. He has no wounds, is in good physical condition, and of very good character.²⁹
- 1919 Sep 18 Residents of Schuyler County organize the first annual “Day of Smiles” celebration in Rushville to honor veterans and to welcome home returning servicemembers.³⁰
- 1919 Oct 23 John marries Melvina Permelia “Millie” Irwin in Rushville.³¹
- 1985 May 12 John dies at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa, aged ninety, and is buried with military rites beside his late wife at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Macomb, Illinois. He is survived by five of his seven

children, twenty-five grandchildren, forty-eight great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, three step-great-grandchildren, and five step-great-great-grandchildren. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 424 in Blandinville, Illinois.³²

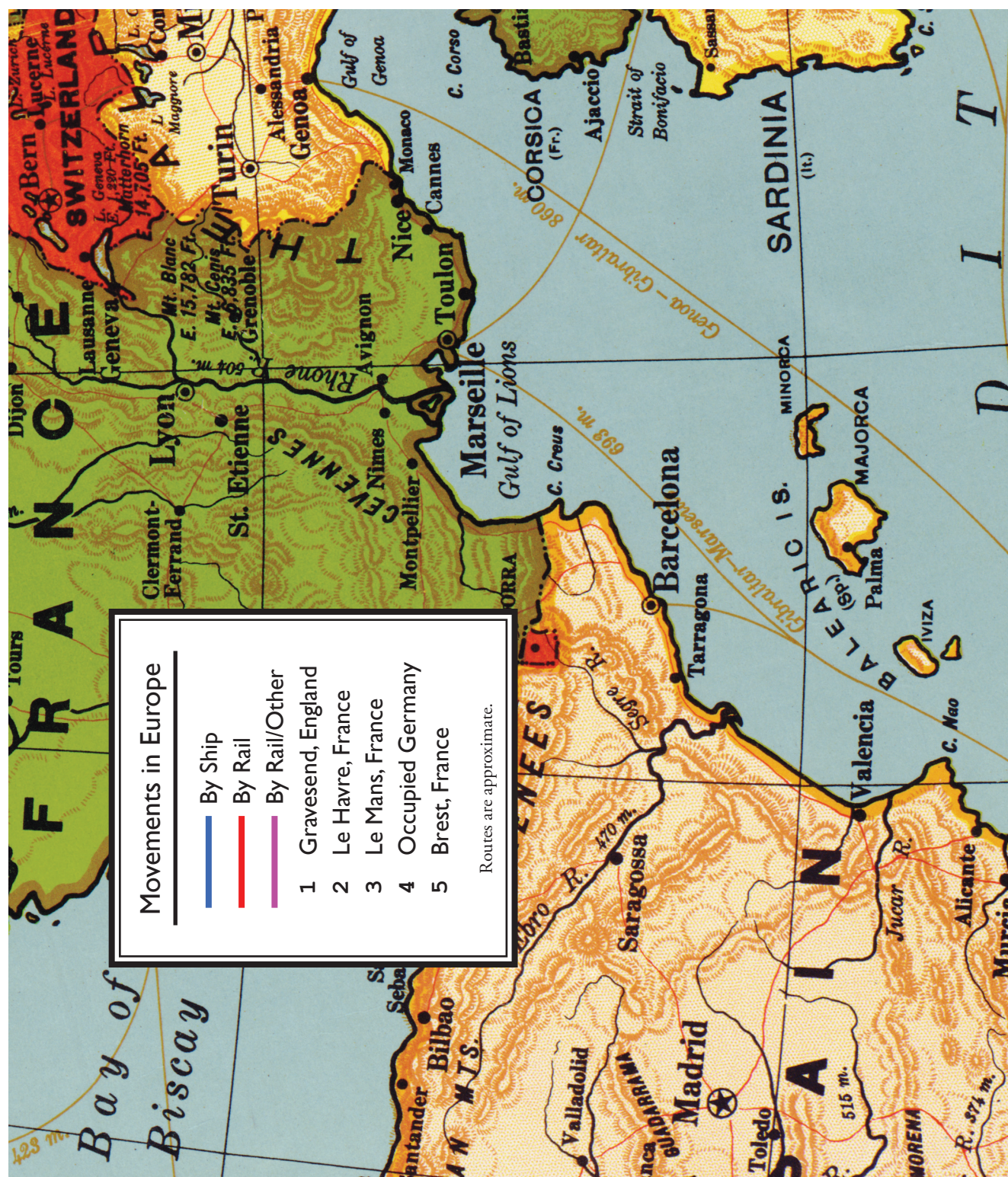


Portrait of John Theodore Morrell in civilian clothing, possibly early 1918.









Form 105 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 47	Age 18 yrs
1	Name in full (Give name)	John T. Morrell	22
2	Home address (No) (Street) (City) (State)	Rushville, Ill	
3	Date of birth (Month) (Day) (Year)	July 19 1895	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	Natural born citizen	
5	Where were you born? (Country) (State) (County)	Ill. Ill. USA	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Farmer Laborer	
8	By whom employed?	Algie Morrell	
9	Where employed? Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	Littleton Ill. No	
10	Married or single (which)?	Single	
11	What military service have you had? Rank (specify which) (Branch) (Years) (Nation or State)	None	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	No	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
If person is of legal age, sign name and date of this card.		John T. Morrell	

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Slender, medium, or stout (which)?
2	Color of eyes? Color of hair? Complexion?
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
Precinct: Littleton City or County: Littleton State: Ill. Signature of registrar: J. T. Morrell Date of registration: June 5/1917	

John Theodore Morrell's draft registration card, 5 Jun 1917.

CERTIFIED COPY OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE

RECORD OF
HONORABLE DISCHARGE
FROM
The United States Army
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This Is To Certify, that John T. Morrell
1571430 Private Company "D" 39th Infantry
 as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITH-
 FUL SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED
 STATES by reason of Convenience of the Government, Demobilization of
Organization, Per Circular 106, W.D. 1918
 Said John T. Morrell
 was born in Camden, in the State of Illinois
 When enlisted he was 23 10/12 years of age, and by occupation a Farmer
 He had Brown eyes, Black hair, Dark complexion, and was
5 feet 6 inches in height.
 Given under my hand at Camp Grant, Illinois this 13th day
 of August, one thousand nine hundred and Nineteen.
Wm. Smith
Major Inf. U.S.A.
 Commanding.

ENLISTMENT RECORD

Name: John T. Morrell Grade: Private
 Enlisted or inducted 5-28-1918 at Rushville, Illinois
 Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.
 Prior Service: None
 Noncommissioned officer: None : Transportation issued: C. B. & Q. R. R.
 : Aug. 13, 1919
 Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: None : 1 Camp Grant 1
 Horsemanship: None
 Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: None A E F
 Decoration; Badges: None
 Medals; Citations: None
 Knowledge of any vocation: Farmer
 Wounds received in service: None
 Physical condition when discharged: Good
 Typhoid prophylaxis completed 5-31-18
 Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed 5-31-18
 Married or single: Single
 CHARACTER: Very Good
 Remarks: Entitled to travel pay to Rushville, Ill.
Sailed from U. S. 10-12-18; Returned to U.S. 8-6-19, Absence without
leave under G.O. No. 31, W.D. 1912 and No. 45, W. D. 1914; None
 Signature of Soldier: John T. Morrell
Camp Grant, Ill. Aug. 13-1919 HARRISON M. HUTCHINGS
Paid in full \$83.45
including Bonus of \$60.00 Act of February 24-1919
P. G. Hoyt-Major Q.M.C. Captain Inf.
Per M. Peterson Commanding Demob. Group
2nd Lieut. Q.M.C. Paid T.P. to Rushville, Ill.
 Filed for record the 13th day of January, A.D., 1923, at 2 o'clock P. M.
 No. 98836 L. H. Byrns, Recorder.

John Theodore Morrell's certified copy of honorable discharge.



*The United States of America
honors the memory of*

JOHN T. MORRELL

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

*Ronald Reagan
President of the United States*

John Theodore Morrell's presidential memorial certificate.

Obituary

John T. Morrell

SCIOTA - Graveside funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, Macomb, for John T. Morrell, 90, of Sciota who died at 1:25 p.m. Sunday in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Iowa City.

Virgil Kelly will officiate at the services and military rites will be conducted there.

Friends may call after 8 a.m. Tuesday at the Sergeant-Worthington Funeral Home in Macomb, where the family will visit with friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday.

He was born July 19, 1894 in Schuyler County, the son of Cyrus and Nora Marshall Morrell. He married Millie Irwin in Rushville on Oct. 23, 1919. She died Jan. 8, 1979.

He is survived by a son, Gene Morrell of Sciota; four daughters, Mrs. Robert (Carol) Cobb of Macomb, Mrs. Juanita Senn and Mrs. Ralph (Alice) Smith, both of Burlington, Iowa and Mrs. Harry (Eva) Drummond of Good Hope.

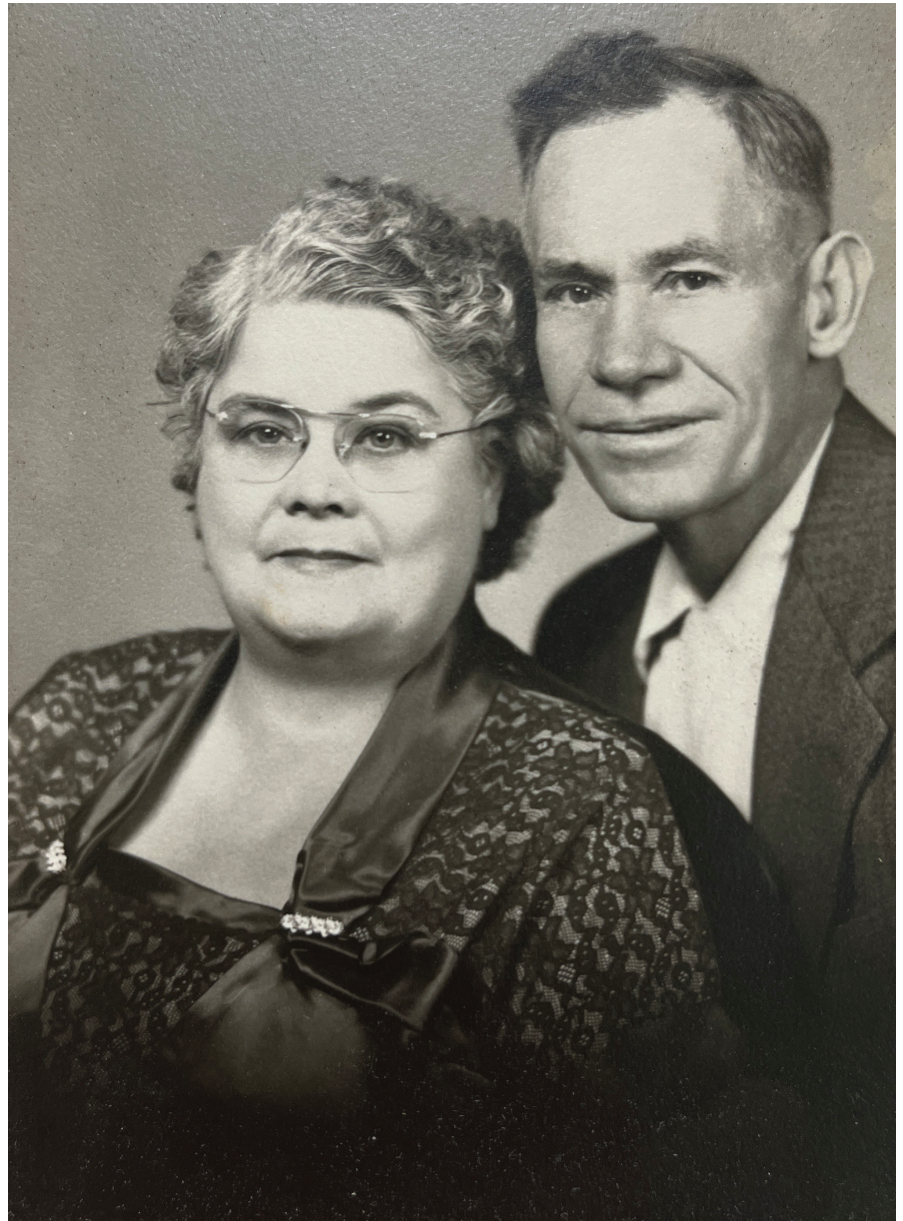
He is also survived by 25 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, three step-great-grandchildren and five step-great-great-grandchildren.

A daughter, Ruth; a son, Jimmie; five brothers, Perry, William, Homer, Charles and Richard and three sisters, Mrs. Alta Seth, Mrs. Mary Atkisson [i.e., Adkison] and Sadie Reeder died earlier.

An Army veteran of World War I, he was a member of the Blandinsville American Legion Post No. 424.

He had been a farmer and also worked at the Macomb Steel Co. and the Hemp Co. in Macomb as well as Mickleberry's [i.e., Mickelberry Food Products Co.] and the Norcross Co. in Bushnell.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.³³



Portrait of John Theodore Morrell and Melvina Permelia "Millie" (Irwin) Morrell.

Children of John Theodore Morrell and Melvina Permelia “Millie” (Irwin) Morrell

Juanita Mae Morrell was born on 17 Oct 1920 in Schuyler County, Illinois, and died on 12 Mar 1996 in Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois, aged seventy-five years.³⁴

Ruth Aileen Morrell was born on 21 Oct 1922 in Schuyler County, Illinois, and died there on 4 Feb 1923, aged three months and fourteen days.³⁵

Clyde Eugene “Gene” Morrell was born on 21 Jan 1924 in Littleton, Schuyler County, Illinois, and died on 19 Jul 1990 in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, aged sixty-six years.³⁶

Jimmie Eldon Morrell was born on 15 Sep 1929 in Illinois and died on 1 Dec 1962 in Garland, Dallas County, Texas, aged thirty-three years.³⁷

Alice Maxine Morrell was born on 3 Nov 1931 in McDonough County, Illinois, and died on 20 Dec 1999 in Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, aged sixty-eight years.³⁸

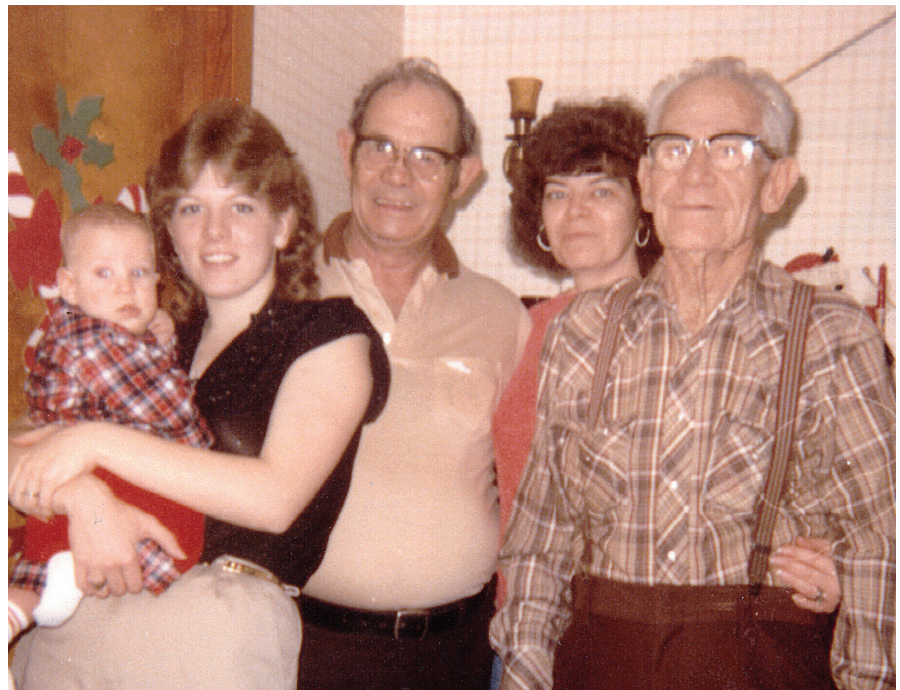
Carol Lee Morrell was born on 7 Nov 1934 in Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado, and died on 17 Oct 2023 in Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, aged eighty-eight years.³⁹

Eva Jayne Morrell was born on 19 Aug 1936 in Sciota, McDonough County, Illinois, and died on 17 Oct 2018 in Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, aged eighty-two years.⁴⁰

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Portrait of John Theodore Morrell with his granddaughter, Jeanette Marie Morrell, 1947.



Portrait of five generations gathered for Christmas in 1982, from left to right: Christopher Duane Cook, Tammy Suzanne (Rigg) Cook, Clyde Eugene Morrell, Jeanette Marie (Morrell) Rigg, and John Theodore Morrell.



John Theodore Morrell's grave marker at Forest Lawn Cemetery (plot Good Shepherd 104-A-3), Macomb, Illinois.

Endnotes

1. *Illinois, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Schuyler County, John T. Morrell (FamilySearch Library [hereinafter FSL] DGS 5248817, image 1881 of 4792) (place of birth: “Camden, Ill.”; has year of birth as “1895” in error); *Illinois, Selective Service System Registration Cards [World War II]: Fourth Registration*, John Theodore Morrell (FSL DGS 4134827, images 5197–5198 of 6142) (middle name: “Theodore”); “John T. Morrell [obituary],” *Macomb Daily Journal* (Macomb, Ill.), 13 May 1985, sec. 1, p. 3; 1900 U.S. Census, Camden Twp., Schuyler Co., Ill., sheet B11, family 238, household of Cyrus L. [sic] Morrell.

2. *Illinois, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Schuyler County, John T. Morrell (FSL DGS 5248817, image 1881 of 4792) (has year of birth as “1895” in error); “No Slackers in Evidence: More Than One Thousand Young Men Register in Schuyler,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 7 Jun 1917, p. [1]; “Last Questionnaires Mailed: Schuyler County Registrants Will Be Classified in Ten Days,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 10 Jan 1918, p. [1].

3. “Summon 116 Selectives: Schuyler County Called Upon for Three Drafts for the Army,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 23 May 1918, p. [1], 4; “Leave for Southern Camps: Schuyler sends 116 Recruits into Camp within Seven Days,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 30 May 1918, p. [1].

4. “Summon 116 Selectives: Schuyler County Called Upon for Three Drafts for the Army,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 23 May 1918, p. [1].

5. "Leave for Southern Camps: Schuyler sends 116 Recruits into Camp within Seven Days, *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 30 May 1918, p. [1].

6. Ibid.

7. Schuyler Co., Ill., Certified Copy of Honorable Discharge of John T. Morrell, filed 13 Jan 1923, certificate no. 98836, reissued 16 May 1950.

8. Schuyler Co., Ill., Death Certificate of Theodore Morrell, filed 30 Jun 1918; "Death of an Old Resident [obituary of Theodore Morrell]," *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 13 Jun 1918, p. 5.

9. *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, "Muster Roll of Company F of the 151st Infantry at Camp Shelby, Miss., from the last bimonthly muster on April 30, 1918, to the muster on June 30, 1918" (FSL DGS 106285402, images 986–1001 of 2011); *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 2, *American Expeditionary Forces: Divisions* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 241.

10. *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, "Roster of Company (F) 151st Infantry at Midnight September [30, 1918]" (FSL DGS 106285402, images 1010–1013 of 2011); *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 3, pt. 3, *Zone of the Interior: Directory of Troops* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 367; Eric B. Setzekorn, *Joining the Great War, April 1917–April 1918* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 2017), p. 30 ("On completion of their training, soldiers boarded troop trains for the journey to the East Coast where they would await transport across the Atlantic.").

11. Inferred from muster roll dates of hospital transfers at Camp Mills (1–4 Oct) and Montreal (5–11 Oct): *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, "Company F, 151st Infantry, Coulans, France, November 14, 1918" (FSL DGS 106285402, images 1015–1020 of 2011).

12. U.S., *Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910–1939*, Outgoing, Nagoya, 9 Sep 1918–1919 (Ancestry.com, collection 61174, images 106, 113, and 158 of 224).

13. U.S., *Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910–1939*, Outgoing, Nagoya, 9 Sep 1918–1919 (Ancestry.com, collection 61174, images 106, 113, and 158 of 224); Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Ships’ Official Logs, Extracted Logs: Ship’s Name *Nagoya*, Official Number 135323, Dates of Voyages [. . .] 24 August 1918–27 October 1918, The National Archives, Kew, England, BT 165/1860.

14. Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Ships’ Official Logs, Extracted Logs: Ship’s Name *Nagoya*, Official Number 135323, Dates of Voyages [. . .] 24 August 1918–27 October 1918, The National Archives, Kew, England, BT 165/1860.

15. “NAGOYA (1913),” P&O Heritage, <https://poheritage.com/collections/3a08f780-7916-31f8-8f1c-3a09dee976f9>; Paul B. Cora and Alexander A. Falbo-Wild, *Supporting Allied Offensives, 8 August–11 November 1918* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 2018), p. 8.

16. Inferred from muster roll dates of hospital transfers at Winnall Down (29 Oct) and Le Havre (30 Oct–2 Nov): *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, “Company F, 151st Infantry, Coulans, France, November 14, 1918” (FSL DGS 106285402, images 1015–1020 of 2011); Erin Standing, “Winchester During Modern War,” *Culture on Call*, Hampshire Cultural Trust, 7 Jun 2024, <https://www.cultureoncall.com/winchester-wars>.

17. Inferred from muster roll dates of hospital transfers at Winnall Down (29 Oct) and Le Havre (30 Oct–2 Nov): *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, “Company F, 151st Infantry, Coulans, France, November 14, 1918” (FSL DGS 106285402, images 1015–1020 of 2011).

18. *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 150th–152nd Inf Regt, Reel 14.245, Roll 394, 1916–1939, “Company F, 151st Infantry, Cou-

lans, France, November 14, 1918” (FSL DGS 106285402, images 1015–1020 of 2011); *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 2, *American Expeditionary Forces: Divisions* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 245; *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 3, pt. 3, *Zone of the Interior: Directory of Troops* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 1391.

19. *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War*, vol. 8, Charles Lynch, Joseph H. Ford, and Frank W. Weed, *Field Operations* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1925), p. 897; Brian F. Neumann and Shane D. Makowicki, *Occupation and Demobilization, 1918–1923* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 2019), p. 7, 17.

20. *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 39th Inf Regt, Reel 18.114, Roll 281, 1916–1939, “Roster of Company ‘D’ 39th Infantry: Correct as of midnight Febuary [sic] 28th, 1919” (FSL DGS 106281612, images 1291–1294 of 1930); *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 2, *American Expeditionary Forces: Divisions* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 60.

An exhaustive search of muster rolls did not locate John Morrell in December 1918 or January 1919. The rolls for the 39th Inf., Co. D., for December and January were signed at Kempenich, Germany (FSL DGS 106281612, images 1286 and 1289 of 1930). Rolls for February 1919 onward—on which John Morrell does appear—do not give a location but are signed by the same personnel adjutant, Clarence J. Wittbecker, as in January.

21. Robert B. Cole and Barnard Eberlin, eds., *The History of the 39th U.S. Infantry During the World War* (New York: Press of Joseph D. McGuire, 1919), p. 137.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid.

24. *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*, vol. 2, *American Expeditionary Forces: Divisions* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1988), p. 73.

25. U.S., *Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910–1939*, Incoming, Leviathan, 25 Jul 1919–6 Aug 1919 (Ancestry.com, collection 61174, images 586 and 670 *inter alia* of 875).

26. Ibid.

27. “SS *Vaterland* (1913),” Wikipedia, last modified 3 Apr 2025, 02:42 (UTC), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Vaterland_\(1913\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Vaterland_(1913)).

28. *United States, World War I, Military Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916–1939*, World War I Rosters of Enlisted Men, 39th Inf Regt, Reel 18.114, Roll 281, 1916–1939, “Roster of Company ‘D’ Thirty Ninth Infantry: Correct as of midnight August 31st, 1919” (FSL DGS 106281612, images 1315–1319 of 1930).

29. Schuyler Co., Ill., Certified Copy of Honorable Discharge of John T. Morrell, filed 13 Jan 1923, certificate no. 98836, reissued 16 May 1950; Final Payment Roll, Demobilization Group, Camp Grant, Illinois, 13 Aug 1919, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Mo.

30. “Hail! Hail! The Gang’s All Here!,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 18 Sep 1919, p. [1]; “They Smiled Amid the Rain: Rushville’s Welcome to Her Soldier Boys Was Welcome Tho Wet,” *Rushville Times* (Rushville, Ill.), 25 Sep 1919, p. [1].

31. Schuyler Co., Ill., Marriage Certificate of John T. Morrell and Melvina Irwin, filed 23 Oct 1919.

32. Johnson Co., Iowa, Death Certificate of John Theodore Morrell, filed 15 May 1985 (has state of birth as “Iowa” in error); “John T. Morrell [obituary],” *Macomb Daily Journal* (Macomb, Ill.), 13 May 1985, sec. 1, p. 3.

33. “John T. Morrell [obituary],” *Macomb Daily Journal* (Macomb, Ill.), 13 May 1985, sec. 1, p. 3.

34. “Juanita Senn [obituary],” *Henderson County Quill* (Stronghurst, Ill.), 20 Mar 1996, p. 10.

35. Schuyler Co., Ill., Death Certificate of Ruth Aileen Morrell, filed 6 Feb 1923.

36. Illinois, Department of Public Health, Delayed Record of Birth, state file no. 200376 (born 1924, filed 1962), Clyde Eugene Morrell; "Clyde Morrell [obituary]," *Macomb Journal* (Macomb, Ill.), 20 Jul 1990, p. 2.

37. Dallas County, Texas, Death Certificate of Jimmie Eldon Morrell, filed 5 Dec 1962; "Cyclist Second Traffic Victim," *Daily-News and Times Reporter* (Garland, Texas), 3 Dec 1962, p. 1, 8.

38. "Alice Smith [obituary]," *Peoria Journal Star* (Peoria, Ill.), 21 Dec 1999, p. B05; middle name from interview with Jeanette Marie (Morrell) Ingersoll, 24 May 2025.

39. "Official Obituary of Carol L. Cobb," Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home, 23 Oct 2023, <https://www.clugston-tibbitts.com/obituary/Carol-Cobb>; middle name from interview with Jeanette Marie (Morrell) Ingersoll, 24 May 2025.

40. United States, Obituary Records, 2014–2023, "Obituary for Eva Jayne Drummond," 18 Oct 2018, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:61XB-JC27>.

Illustration Credits

Page 7: “First World War Victory Medal service ribbon.” *File:World War I Victory Medal ribbon.svg*. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:World_War_I_Victory_Medal_ribbon.svg&oldid=915194238.

Page 8: “Portrait of John Theodore Morrell in uniform, sometime after his marriage on 23 Oct 1919 (note wedding band on left hand).” Photographer unknown; undated. Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Page 10: “Detail from a peacetime postcard of *Nagoya* in port at Yokohama, Japan.” Artist and publisher unknown; undated. Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Page 11: “Soldiers in the kitchen and mess line at Le Mans forwarding camp, 3 Mar 1919.” Jones, T. F. *30th Division [. . .] Forwarding Camp, Le Mans, Sarthe, France*. Photographs of American Military Archives, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, identifier 313155882. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/313155882>.

Page 12: “*Leviathan* sporting ‘dazzle’ camouflage at Brest, France, 30 May 1918.” *File:USS Leviathan being used to transport American troops, Brest, France, May 30, 1918 (28294620966).jpg*. Wikimedia Commons. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:USS_Leviathan_being_used_to_transport_American_troops,_Brest,_France,_May_30,_1918_\(28294620966\).jpg&oldid=955832777](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:USS_Leviathan_being_used_to_transport_American_troops,_Brest,_France,_May_30,_1918_(28294620966).jpg&oldid=955832777).

Page 13: “Portrait of John Theodore Morrell in civilian clothing, possibly early 1918.” Photographer unknown; undated. Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Pages 14–15: Map: “Movements in North America.” Detail, altered, from: *Rand-McNally’s New 14 × 21 Map of the United States*. [Chicago]: Rand-McNally & Co., 1912. David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries, list no. 3490.003. <https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/3q1c0b>.

Pages 16–17: Map: “Movements in Europe.” Detail, altered, from: Bacon, G. W. *Bacon’s Standard Map of Europe*. [Chicago Heights, Ill.]: Weber Costello Co., [1925?]. World Digital Library, Library of Congress. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g5700.ct001973>.

Page 18: “John Theodore Morrell’s draft registration card, 5 Jun 1917.” *Illinois, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, Schuyler County, John T. Morrell (FSL DGS 5248817, image 1881 of 4792).

Page 19: “John Theodore Morrell’s certified copy of honorable discharge.” Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Page 20: “John Theodore Morrell’s presidential memorial certificate.” Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Page 22: “Portrait of John Theodore Morrell and Melvina Permelia ‘Millie’ (Irwin) Morrell.” Photographer unknown; undated. Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

Page 24: “Portrait of John Theodore Morrell with his granddaughter, Jeanette Marie Morrell, 1947.” Photographer unknown; dated 1947 on verso. Original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

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Page 25: “John Theodore Morrell’s grave marker” Photograph by Christopher D. Cook; taken 4 Jul 2024. Digital original in the collection of Christopher D. Cook.

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JOHN THEODORE MORRELL (1894–1985) was twenty-three years old when the Army called him off his family's farm to serve in the First World War. He returned to start his own family, first in Schuyler County, Illinois, then in the village of Sciota where five generations would live. This short book is a memorial to John, his ancestors, and his descendants who have passed, and a record for those who are curious about Morrell family history.



CHRISTOPHER D. COOK (b. 1982) is a great-great-grandson of John Theodore Morrell. He grew up in Sciota, Illinois, among generations of Morrell descendants. Cook is a member of the *Order of the Second World War* through Clyde Eugene Morrell, the *Order of the First World War* through John Theodore Morrell, the *National Society Descendants of American Farmers* through Cyrus Alphonso Morrell, and the *Mayflower Society* by way of descent from seven passengers through a non-Morrell line.

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